

3

Animal Product
Manual

Reference

Casings

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Introduction

The *Casings* section covers the decision making necessary to regulate importations of animal casings (natural casings) as well as collagen casings (reconstituted casings). Casings are membranous covers used as food containers for processed meat. Following are examples of animal organs used for natural animal casings:

- ◆ Bladders
- ◆ Bung caps
- ◆ Ceca (cecum)
- ◆ Intestines
- ◆ Stomachs
- ◆ Rectums

Not all products derived from an animal's digestive organs or bladder are casings. Some products are imported for different purposes. Also, there are artificial casings made primarily from cellulose. Therefore, the following animal products and by-products are **not** covered under the casings section:

- ◆ Stomachs imported as edible meat products, like tripe; regulate these products under [Meat and Meat Products](#)
- ◆ Ruminant stomachs and goat gullets imported for the rennet; regulate these products under [Organs](#)

- ◆ Intestines, bladders, gullets, and weasands imported as inedible animal by-products that are rendered to feed **other than** livestock or to make fertilizers; regulate these products as rendered products under [Animal Waste and Related By-Products](#)
- ◆ Dried intestines imported for manufacturing into strings for instruments or racquets (gut strings); regulate gut strings under [Animal Waste and Related By-Products](#)
- ◆ Dried intestines imported for manufacturing into glue; regulate this by-product as glue stock under [Animal Waste and Related By-Products](#)
- ◆ Moist intestines and bung caps, primarily of ruminant (sheep), imported for manufacturing into articles such as prophylactics. Regulate these products under [Organs](#)
- ◆ Intestines imported as finished suture material packed in liquid; these products are **unrestricted**
- ◆ Salt scrapings which are the reclaimed salt from casings; scrapings are covered under [Miscellaneous Products](#)
- ◆ Artificial casings made from cellulose are unrestricted

Certification

Except for artificial casings made from cellulose, all importations of animal casings **must** be accompanied by foreign government certification.¹ The kind of certification will depend upon the following:

- ◆ The species of animal from which the casings were derived
- ◆ The country of origin for the casings (where the animals were slaughtered and the casings collected)
- ◆ The country in which the casings were processed (graded, sized, and sorted)
- ◆ The country where the casings were stored (this pertains **only** to ruminant casings stored in a region affected with BSE)
- ◆ Whether the casings are natural or reconstituted

¹ Ask importers if they plan to re-export the casings. If they do, advise them to make a copy of the *Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings* along with your release stamp. Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will require a copy of this certificate along with the APHIS Release Stamp to verify that the casings were legally imported into the U.S. **Without** this copy, FSIS **cannot** issue their Export Certificate.

Certificates **must** meet the following criteria:


- ◆ Be in English
- ◆ Be issued by a veterinarian authorized by the national government of the country of origin and/or where the casings were processed
- ◆ Have an **original** signature of the person issuing the certificate (printed or stamped signatures are **not** allowed)
- ◆ Bear the insignia of the national government of the country of origin or country in which the casings were processed or stored

Locator

Determining if Casings Are of Animal Origin

Use [Table 3-5-1](#) to determine if the casings are of animal origin.

TABLE 3-5-1 Determine if Casings Are of Animal Origin

If the casings are:	And derived from:	And they are:	Then:
Animal origin	Collagen (collagen is an animal protein derived from skin, intestines, tendons, bones, cartilage, or connective tissue)	Ruminant origin	GO to Table 3-5-2
		Swine origin	GO to Table 3-5-3
	Organs such as bladders, bung caps, ceca (cecum), intestines, esophagi, or stomachs (natural casings)	Packed in leakproof containers such as barrels, casks, tierces, or plastic containers	GO to Table 3-5-4
		Packed in animal skins as containers	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Not derived from an animal product; synthetic or artificial (usually appear as pleated like an accordion's bellows)			RELEASE

Reconstituted Casings

Reconstituted Collagen Casings Derived from Ruminant Collagen

Reconstituted casings are made of collagen. Most of the collagen is obtained from food grade, lined and split ruminant hides. Swine hides are rarely used, and collagen obtained from non-hide sources (such as intestines) are more rare. Reconstituted casings and reconstituted collagen casings are one and the same.

TABLE 3-5-2 Reconstituted Collagen Casings Derived from Ruminant Collagen

If:	And the ruminant material originated in a region:	And the collagen was derived from ruminant:	And:	Then:
Reconstituted collagen casings derived from ruminant collagen	Affected with BSE	Hides or skins	Is accompanied by the proper certification ¹	RELEASE
			Lacks the proper certification ¹	REFUSE ENTRY
		Bones, cartilage, connective tissue, intestines, or tendons	→	
	Minimal risk for BSE ²	Hides or skins	Is accompanied by the proper certification ¹	RELEASE
			Lacks the proper certification ¹	REFUSE ENTRY
		Bones, cartilage, connective tissue, intestines, or tendons	→	
	Free from BSE	→	→	RELEASE

1 The certificate **must** be signed by an official employed by the agency which regulates animal health. The certificate **must** carry the declaration stating that the collagen was derived **only** from hides or skins. For Canada, a NAFTA certificate with the same statement is also acceptable.

2 Currently Canada is the **only** country designated at minimal risk for BSE.

Reconstituted Collagen Casings Derived from Swine Collagen




TABLE 3-5-3 Regulatory Action on Reconstituted Collagen Casings Derived from Swine Collagen

If:	And the country of origin is known to be:	Then:
Reconstituted collagen casings derived from swine collagen	Affected with ASF	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
	Free from ASF	RELEASE

Natural Animal Casings

Determine the class of animal from which the natural casings were collected, and take the action listed in [Table 3-5-4](#).

TABLE 3-5-4 Natural Animal Casings

If:	And you:	And the casings originated in a country or region:	Then:
Natural animal casings	Determine that the casings were collected from a ruminant (usually cattle or sheep)		GO to Table 3-5-5
	Determine that the casings were collected from swine	Free from ASF	GO to Table 3-5-8
		Affected with ASF	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
	Determine that the casings were collected from a class of animal other than ruminant or swine		
	Cannot determine the class of animal from which the casings were derived		1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-HQ personnel

Ruminant Casings Originating in a Foreign Country

TABLE 3-5-5 Ruminant Casings Originating in a Foreign Country









If:	And the region of origin is known to be:	And the casings are from:	And derived from:	And:	And the casings are:	Then:
Ruminant casings originating in a foreign country	Affected with BSE	Stomachs		Accompanied by a Foreign Official Veterinary Certificate for animal casings	Filled	REFER to FSIS
					Not filled	RELEASE
		Other than stomachs		Lacks the certification described above		1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. GIVE the importer the opportunity to obtain certification 3. If unable to obtain certification, then PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
						1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
	Minimal risk for BSE ¹	Stomachs		Accompanied by veterinary certification; CFIA certificate	Filled	REFER to FSIS
					Not filled	RELEASE
		Other than stomachs		Lacks the certification described above		1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. GIVE the importer the opportunity to obtain certification 3. If unable to obtain certification, then PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
						1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)


TABLE 3-5-5 Ruminant Casings Originating in a Foreign Country (continued)

If:	And the region of origin is known to be:	And the casings are from:	And derived from:	And:	And the casings are:	Then:
Ruminant casings originating in a foreign country	Minimal risk for BSE ¹		Ovine (sheep)	Accompanied by veterinary certification; CFIA Annex C	Filled	REFER to FSIS
					Not filled	RELEASE
	Free from BSE			Lacks CFIA Annex C	→	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. GIVE the importer the opportunity to obtain certification 3. If unable to obtain certification, then PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
				Dried like parchment (a crease is made when folded)	→	RELEASE
				Not dried like parchment (a crease is not made when folded)	→	REFUSE ENTRY
				Wet or brined (If packed in sealed, leakproof containers then likely to be wet)	→	GO to Table 3-5-6

1 Currently Canada is the **only** country designated at minimal risk for BSE.

Ruminant Casings from a Country Known to Be Free from BSE

TABLE 3-5-6 Ruminant Casings from a Country Known to Be Free from BSE

If:	And from a country known to be:	And the casings were:	And the importation:	Then:
Ruminant casings	Free from BSE	Both stored and processed in the same country in which the casings originated	Is accompanied by a <i>Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings</i> ^{1, 2}	RELEASE
			Lacks the <i>Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings</i>	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options, including getting the <i>Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings</i> (see Table 2-2-11)
		Either processed or stored in a country other than that in which the casings originated		GO to Table 3-5-7

1 Foreign Meat Inspection Certificates and Meat Product Certificates are **unacceptable** for casings.

2 FSIS now requires that bovine casings from small intestines include the following statement on the Official Certificate: "If derived from bovine small intestines, (the casings) exclude the distal ileum and meet the requirements of CFR 310.22(a)(3)."

Ruminant Casings Originating in a Country Known to Be Free from BSE, but Processed and Stored in a Country Other than that in Which the Casings Originated

TABLE 3-5-7 Ruminant Casings Originating in a Country Known to Be Free from BSE, but Processed and Stored in a Country Other than That in Which the Casings Originated


If:	And the casings were processed in a region:	And:	And stored in a region known to be:	And:	And the casings are:	Then:
Ruminant casings	Free from BSE	Either one: ♦ Stored in the same country where the casings were processed ♦ There is no evidence that the casings were stored in another country	Free from BSE	Accompanied by both : ♦ Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings ¹ ♦ Certification as to processing that parallels that shown in Figure 3-5-3	Filled	REFER to FSIS
					Not filled	RELEASE
		Stored in a different country from where the casings were processed	Free from BSE	Lacks either the Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings or certification as to processing	→	REFUSE ENTRY
					→	REFUSE ENTRY
			Affected with BSE	→	→	REFUSE ENTRY
			Minimal risk for BSE ²	→	→	REFUSE ENTRY
			Free from BSE	Accompanied by both : ♦ Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings ¹ ♦ Certification as to processing that parallels that shown in Figure 3-5-3	Filled	REFER to FSIS
					Not filled	RELEASE
					→	REFUSE ENTRY

1 FSIS now requires that bovine casings from small intestines include the following statement on the Official Certificate: "If derived from bovine small intestines, (the casings) exclude the distal ileum and meet the requirements of CFR 310.22(a)(3)."

2 Currently Canada is the **only** country designated at minimal risk for BSE.

Swine Casings Originating in a Foreign Country Free from ASF

TABLE 3-5-8 Swine Casings Originating in a Foreign Country Free from ASF

If:	And the country of origin is:	And the casings were:	And the casings:	Then:
Swine casings	Free from ASF	Processed in the same region where the animal was slaughtered	Are accompanied by certification as to processing that parallels that shown in Figure 3-5-2 ¹	RELEASE
			Lack the processing certificate	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
		Processed in a different country or region from that where the animal was slaughtered		GO to Table 3-5-9

- ¹ You may accept **other** official certificates in lieu of the *Foreign Official Certificate of Animal Casings* if the information **parallels** that required on this official certificate (see [Figure 3-5-2](#) for an example of the certificate). However, Foreign Meat Inspection Certificates and Meat Product Certificates are **unacceptable** for casings.

TABLE 3-5-9 Natural Swine Casings from a Country of Origin Free from ASF, and Processed in a Country Other than the Country of Origin

If:	And the country of origin is:	And the country or region of processing is:	And the casings:	Then:
Natural swine casings	Free from ASF	Free from ASF	Are accompanied by certification as to processing that parallels that shown in Figure 3-5-3	RELEASE
			Lack the processing certification	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
		Affected with ASF ¹	Were shipped from an approved establishment listed in Figure 3-5-1	RELEASE
			Were not shipped from an approved establishment listed in Figure 3-5-1	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

- ¹ Swine casings that originate in a country known to be free from ASF, and are sent to a country affected with ASF to be processed **must** go to an approved foreign establishment (see [Figure 3-5-1](#), "List of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Approved Official Establishment in the Republic of South Africa Authorized to Process Swine Casings," on page 3-5-12).

Establishment Number	Name and Address of Establishment
59	Freddy Hirsch-Bizerba Scales Pty. Ltd Cor. Vorrtrekker Road & 11th Avenue Maitland East, Capetown Republic of South Africa

FIGURE 3-5-1 List of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Approved Official Establishment in the Republic of South Africa Authorized to Process Swine Casings

The certificate issued by the country of processing **must** have the following additional statements:

- ◆ The animal casings herein described are casings which originated in [country of origin] and were accompanied by official documentation attesting that the casings were derived from animals which received ante-mortem and post-mortem veterinary inspection
- ◆ The casings have **not** been in contact with other casings, meat, or animal products while in [country of processing]
- ◆ The casings have been handled and processed in a clean, sanitary manner

TABLE 3-5-10 Swine Casings from a Country of Origin Known to Be Free from ASF, and Processed at an Approved Foreign Establishment in an ASF Affected Country

If:	And the country of origin is:	And the casings were:	And the importation was:	And is:	Then:
Swine casings	Free from ASF	Processed at an approved foreign establishment in a country that is affected with ASF	Shipped from an approved establishment listed in Figure 3-5-1	Accompanied by the appropriate certification	RELEASE
				Not accompanied by the appropriate certification	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
			Not shipped from an approved establishment	→	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

One example of a foreign official certificate for animal casings is shown in **Figure 3-5-2**. The official certificate must contain the required information, but may be in a format other than shown below.

Number of casings	Number of packages	Weight
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Identification marks on the packages _____

Insignor _____ [Address] _____

Designee _____ [Destination] _____

Loading marks _____

Signature _____ *[Official issuing the certificate]*
 Non-government veterinarian authorized to issue the certificate by the national government of the region in which
 animals were slaughtered and the casings were collected.)

Official title _____

Signature _____ *[Official issuing the certificate]*
 Veterinarian salaried by the national government of the region in which the animals were slaughtered and the casing
 are collected.)

Official title _____

FIGURE 3-5-2 Example of a Foreign Official Certificate for Animal Casings

Certification Requirements

Certification—when animal casings are processed (graded, sized, and sorted) in a country **other than** the country in which the animals were slaughtered and the casings were collected, the importation **must** be accompanied by certification which is issued in the country of processing.

This certification **must** contain the following information:

- ◆ City and country in which the casings were processed
- ◆ Date
- ◆ Kind of casings (species of animal slaughtered and casings collected from)
- ◆ Number of packages
- ◆ Weight of casings
- ◆ Identification marks on packages
- ◆ Consignor and consignor's address
- ◆ Consignee and consignee's address
- ◆ Shipping marks
- ◆ Signature of official issuing the certification
- ◆ Name (typed or printed) of official making the certification
- ◆ Official title of person issuing the certification

FIGURE 3-5-3 Information Which Must Appear on Certification of Animal Casings from a Country of Processing that Differs from the Country in Which the Casings Originated